

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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DPW Implements New Flood Preparedness Plan

DPW better prepared for weather events with new Flood Fight Headquarters

INDIANAPOLIS – The Department of Public Works (DPW) is rolling out a new Flood Preparedness Plan, to be operated out of its new Flood Fight Headquarters. The new plan will provide a more controlled and efficient response during severe weather events.

Preparations began on the new Flood Preparedness Plan in early 2008 as DPW evaluated its flood response. As a result, DPW's new plan includes enhanced storm tracking, real-time flood stage tracking and predictive measures, data recording procedures, flood response implementation procedures and post-flood response analysis.

"Using the flood fighting resources we have now, we can better understand flood behaviors and take even more proactive measures," said DPW Director David Sherman. "When we get another flood event like we did in June of 2008, we'll have the ability to see what exactly is going on and we'll be better informed."

Where the old flood monitoring strategy relied on paper, the new plan utilizes modern flood monitoring technology. DPW moved this equipment from the Belmont Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant, where it was used by United Water to monitor wastewater activity, to the new Flood Fight Headquarters (located at DPW's 1725 S. West St. location) so it could be used year-round to monitor conditions throughout the city.

DPW used to rely predominantly on the White River to gauge flood severity. Now, DPW receives real-time water level readings from the U.S. Geological Survey not only on the White River, but also on other Marion County streams and rivers. Under the new plan, DPW will also have access to the National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction System.

To report flooding concerns, please contact the Mayor's Action Center (MAC) at 327-4622.

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